

REMARKS

Claims 15 to 21 are now pending in the present application. No new matter has been added.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of this response.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) – Majeti and Gammie references

Claims 15 to 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,534,913 to Majeti et al. (“Majeti reference”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,029,207 to Gammie (“Gammie reference”).

The Majeti reference purportedly concerns an apparatus and method for integrating downstream data transfers over a cable television channel with upstream data carrier by other media. The Majeti reference discusses a split channel bridging unit having a router that operates under the control of a control processor to route packets of information destined for a user to a modulator connected to the cable distribution head-end of the cable television system. The Majeti reference refers to the modulator as encoding the digital information transmitted from the router and in an RF channel to be carried by the television cable; the cable distribution head-end combines the RF channel with other conventional cable television sources to broadcast these channels to its users. The Majeti reference further refers to a customer assuming that a user has an RF demodulator and packet receiver which demodulates the RF encoded signals and utilizes the packet receiver to transmit the digital information addressed to the particular user to the user’s personal computer.

The Gammie reference purportedly concerns an external security module for a television signal decoder. The Gammie reference refers to a decoder for descrambling encoded satellite transmissions having an internal security element and a replaceable security module, where the program signal is scrambled with a key and then the key itself is twice-encrypted and multiplexed with the scrambled program signals. The Gammie reference further refers to the key being first encrypted with a first secret serial number which is assigned to a given replaceable security module; the key is then encrypted with a second secret serial which is assigned to a decoder. The partially decrypted key is then further decrypted by the replaceable security module using the first secret serial number stored within the replaceable security module. The Gammie reference further states that the decoder then descrambles the program using the twice-decrypted key.

In contrast, claim 15 is directed to a decoder device for decrypting encrypted television programs, including, among other things, *a first interface for interfacing to at least one of a first identification and a first key carrier component for enabling the decryption device, the first interface being disposed in the control unit; a second interface for interfacing to the control unit; a third interface for interfacing to a telecommunications network; and a*

fourth interface for interfacing to at least one of a second identification and a second key carrier component, an authorization by at least one of the second identification and the second key carrier component being useable for establishing a connection to a subscriber via the telecommunications network. Both the Majeti and Gammie references – alone or in combination – do not describe or suggest all of the features of claim 15 such as the four interfaces claimed in the manner claimed. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 15 is allowable, and respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the Majeti and Gammie references of claim 15.

Claims 16 to 21 depend from claim 15 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 15.

In summary, it is respectfully submitted that all of claims 15 to 21 of the present application are allowable for the foregoing reasons.

CONCLUSION

In view of all of the above, it is believed that the rejections of the claims have been overcome. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that all claims 15 to 21 are allowable. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn, and that the present application issue as early as possible.

If it would further allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the contact information given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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